

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of conducting an auction having at least two bidders, comprising:
 - receiving bid data from a first bidder;
 - determining, using a processor, whether a competing bidder meets at least one condition for receiving the bid data, wherein the at least one condition comprises a condition that the competing bidder has placed at least one bid; and
 - providing the bid data to the competing bidder.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one condition comprises a condition that ~~said determining whether the competing bidder meets the condition~~ includes determining whether the competing bidder is a lead bidder.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one condition comprises a condition that ~~said determining whether the competing bidder meets the condition~~ includes determining whether the competing bidder is ranked above a predetermined number of other bidders.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one condition comprises a condition that ~~said determining whether the competing bidder meets the condition~~ includes determining whether the competing bidder is ranked above a predetermined percentage of other bidders.
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one condition comprises a condition that ~~said determining whether the competing bidder meets the condition~~ includes determining whether the competing bidder has entered a bid within a predetermined time period.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining whether the competing bidder meets the condition includes:

- establishing a best bid placed by the first bidder;
 - calculating a difference between a best bid placed by the competing bidder and the best bid placed by the first bidder; and
 - determining whether said calculated difference is less than a predetermined amount.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining whether the competing bidder meets the condition includes:
- establishing a best bid placed by all bidders;
 - calculating a difference between a best bid placed by the competing bidder and the best bid placed by all other bidders; and
 - determining whether said calculated difference is less than a predetermined percentage.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one condition comprises a condition that ~~said determining whether the competing bidder meets the condition includes determining whether~~ the competing bidder has placed at least one bid that is better than a predetermined amount.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the bid data includes an amount of money for which the first bidder is willing to sell a good.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the bid data includes an amount of money for which the first bidder is willing to sell a service.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the bid data includes a total value for which the first bidder is willing to sell a good.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the total value is represented by a numeric value.
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the bid data includes a numeric value representative of a total value for which the first bidder is willing to sell a service.
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the providing bid data includes providing bid data related to all bidders that have submitted at least one bid.
17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the providing bid data includes providing bid data related to less than all bidders that have submitted at least one bid.
18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- determining a rank of the competing bidder based on a best numeric value bid by the competing bidder; and

wherein said providing bid data further comprises providing bid data related to a bidder having a rank that is one better than the rank of the competing bidder.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising providing said bid data to the competing bidder only after the competing bidder has submitted a valid bid.

20-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[28]] 1, wherein the at least one ~~valid~~ bid is a bid that is better than a bid received from the first bidder.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[28]] 1, wherein the at least one ~~valid~~ bid is a bid that is better than a best bid received from any bidder.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[28]] 1, wherein the at least one ~~valid~~ bid is a bid that is better than a predetermined value.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[28]] 1, wherein the at least one ~~valid~~ bid is a bid that is submitted within a predetermined time period.

33-59. (Cancelled)

60. (New) A system for conducting an auction having at least two bidders, comprising:

a processor configured to:

receive bid data from a first bidder;

determine whether a competing bidder meets at least one condition for receiving the bid data, wherein the at least one condition comprises a condition that the competing bidder has placed at least one bid; and

provide the bid data to the competing bidder; and

a memory coupled to the processor and configured to provide the processor with instructions.

61. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the at least one condition comprises a condition that the competing bidder is ranked above a predetermined number of other bidders.

62. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the at least one condition comprises a condition that the competing bidder is ranked above a predetermined number of other bidders.

63. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the at least one condition comprises a condition that the competing bidder is ranked above a predetermined percentage of other bidders.

64. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the at least one condition comprises a condition that the competing bidder has entered a bid within a predetermined time period.

65. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein said determining whether the competing bidder meets the condition includes:

establishing a best bid placed by the first bidder;

calculating a difference between a best bid placed by the competing bidder and the best bid placed by the first bidder; and

determining whether said calculated difference is less than a predetermined amount.

66. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein said determining whether the competing bidder meets the condition includes:

establishing a best bid placed by all bidders;

calculating a difference between a best bid placed by the competing bidder and the best bid placed by all other bidders; and

determining whether said calculated difference is less than a predetermined percentage.

67. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the at least one condition comprises a condition that the competing bidder has placed at least one bid that is better than a predetermined amount.

68. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the bid data includes an amount of money for which the first bidder is willing to sell a good.

69. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the bid data includes an amount of money for which the first bidder is willing to sell a service.

70. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the bid data includes a total value for which the first bidder is willing to sell a good.

71. (New) The system of claim 70, wherein the total value is represented by a numeric value.

72. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the bid data includes a numeric value representative of a total value for which the first bidder is willing to sell a service.

73. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the providing bid data includes providing bid data related to all bidders that have submitted at least one bid.

74. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the providing bid data includes providing bid data related to less than all bidders that have submitted at least one bid.

75. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the processor is further configured to:

determine a rank of the competing bidder based on a best numeric value bid by the competing bidder; and

wherein said providing bid data further comprises providing bid data related to a bidder having a rank that is one better than the rank of the competing bidder.

76. (New) The system of claim 75, wherein the processor is further configured to provide said bid data to the competing bidder only after the competing bidder has submitted a valid bid.

77. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the at least one bid is a bid that is better than a bid received from the first bidder.

78. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the at least one bid is a bid that is better than a best bid received from any bidder.

79. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the at least one bid is a bid that is better than a predetermined value.

80. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the at least one bid is a bid that is submitted within a predetermined time period.